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DD/S&T# 1893-73

14 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit with Mr. C. L. "Kelly" Johnson,
Lockheed Aircraft Company, 14 June 1973

1. I met Kelly Johnson as arranged in the lobby of the Statler Hotel on this date. We had lunch at the Statler during which time Kelly made the following comments which may or may not be of interest. He appeared to be relaxed and said he was feeling well, although he gets tired after two or three hours which he attributes to taking on a workload after recuperating from his open heart surgery.

2. He stated that his meetings with the Navy had not been very productive because no one is willing to make a decision. He indicated that there is still no "buy" by the Navy for the U-2. He feels there is some inter-service rivalry because the U. S. Air Force is telling the Navy that since they have all the experience, they will fly the U-2 for the Navy. He also remarked that many of the Admirals that he wanted to see were over on Capital Hill and that, as usual, budget was the big stumbling block.

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[redacted] After lunch we drove to the Headquarters Building, arriving at 1400 in [redacted] office. [redacted]

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was leaving but arranged for us to get with [] and []

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[] from OSI. [] was not clear that Kelly had been invited to Headquarters to discuss the crash of the TU-144 and stated that he thought Kelly had wanted to discuss the matter. I clarified this with [] indicating that Mr. Duckett had requested Kelly to come in. Unfortunately, the filmstrip which had the most footage on the TU-144 crash was not available, and it seems that NBC must negotiate with the French television company to obtain a copy.

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4. After some discussion as to how this crash might have occurred, [] joined the group together with []

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[] was aware that Mr. Duckett had requested Johnson to visit Headquarters and advised Johnson that an [] had picked up some small debris from the

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crash. Mr. Duckett wants Mr. Johnson to evaluate the debris and Mr. Johnson agreed to do so. Apparently, the most interesting item to Kelly was a rotor blade from the turbine which he says would enable them to determine state-of-the-art. Mr. Johnson was asked what he felt the most important information would be to analyze the cause of the crash, and he advised that it would be a description of the relative location of items within the debris field. [] indicated that they would attempt to get this map []

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5. We had a short meeting with Dr. Steininger who had not met Mr. Johnson before, and Dr. Steininger apologized for Messrs. Duckett and Parangosky not being available. Kelly stated that they have been working with []

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[]

6. Mr. Johnson told me that [] Office of Strategic Research, had wanted to talk to him, so I arranged for [] to come up. The gist of this conversation centered around the Soviet FOXBAT and BACKFIRE capabilities as well as [] observations at the Paris Air Show. []

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7. Kelly indicated that he wanted to leave about 1600 hours, and we were able to depart the Headquarters Building at precisely that time. I asked whether he and Mary Ellen had any plans for this evening and, if not, we could plan on dinner. He said that he had a business meeting with an Admiral (unidentified) who had not been available during the day but would be available this evening.

8. We arrived at the Carlton Hotel where he is staying at about 1630 hours. He requested that I give his regards to Carl Duckett and John Parangosky.

9. During the entire time, Mr. Johnson appeared relaxed, pleasant and cooperative. He particularly enjoyed the drive to and from the Building and commented on that several times.

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